



CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL WORKS

Funding Highlights:

- The Army Corps of Engineers civil works program (Corps) develops, manages, restores, and protects water resources primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study of water-related infrastructure projects. The Corps is also responsible for regulating the development of navigable waters of the United States and works with other Federal agencies to help communities respond to, and recover from floods and other natural disasters.
- The Budget focuses Federal investment where it is most warranted within the three primary mission areas of the Corps to address the most significant risks to public safety or to provide a high economic or environmental return to the Nation. The Budget also targets accelerating the completion of ongoing projects. The Budget continues to propose reforms to how the Nation invests in water resources projects, by enabling greater local participation in Corps projects.
- The Budget eliminates funding for projects that are better suited to be carried out by States and local communities. The Budget proposes the Corps implement more robust tools and greater transparency to control spending and ensure taxpayer funding isn't being utilized for unnecessary or wasteful projects. The Administration encourages the Congress to join it in supporting the approval of projects based on merit and need.
- The 2021 Budget requests \$6 billion for the Corps, a \$1.7 billion or 22-percent decrease from the 2020 enacted level.

The President's 2021 Budget:

The Corps has three main missions: flood and storm damage reduction; commercial navigation; and aquatic ecosystem restoration. The Corps also regulates development in navigable waters and wetlands. While the Agency has had a significant impact on water resources development throughout its history, current approaches to funding, constructing, and maintaining projects often do not deliver benefits in either a timely or cost-effective manner. The current paradigm for investing in water resources development is not optimal; it can deter rather than enable States, local communities, and the private sector from making important investments on their own, even when they are the primary beneficiaries. The Budget lays the foundation for accelerating the construction of infrastructure and increasing competition in the delivery of projects, thereby resulting in faster completion of projects and cost savings. The Budget focuses Federal resources where they are most warranted, encourages more non-Federal leadership, and removes barriers that can impede the

ability of non-Federal parties to move forward on their own with investments in water resources infrastructure they deem priorities.

Prepares for the Future Not the Past

Accelerates Completion of Ongoing Construction Projects. The Budget keeps the Federal Government’s promise to complete ongoing construction projects that provide a high economic or environmental return to the Nation or address a significant risk to public safety more quickly and more cost effectively. By proposing not to start any new construction projects, the Budget enables the Corps to focus on completing these ongoing priority projects faster and at a reduced cost, allowing the affected communities to see their benefits sooner. The Budget also recognizes the need to change the way future construction investments are funded, with less reliance on Federal appropriations. For example, the Budget provides \$250 million for innovative partnerships between the Federal Government and non-Federal sponsors to accelerate completion of projects.

Prioritizes Operating and Maintaining Existing Infrastructure. The Budget gives priority to operating and maintaining existing water resources infrastructure and improving its reliability. Maintenance of the key features of this infrastructure is funded; this includes navigation channels that serve the Nation’s largest coastal ports and the inland waterways with the most commercial use, such as the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and the Illinois Waterway.

Reaffirms the President’s Commitment to Restoring the Everglades

“Congress needs to help us complete the world’s largest intergovernmental watershed restoration project ASAP! Good for Florida and good for the environment.”

President Donald J. Trump
May 13, 2019

The Budget includes \$250 million for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Increases Flexibility to Respond to Future Natural Disasters. The Budget provides \$50 million in the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Account, and \$50 million in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for urgent emergency response work following flood-related major disaster declarations, pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Empowers States and Local Communities to Accelerate Water Resources Projects. The Budget expands the Corps’ use of section 1043 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, as amended, by including \$250 million for an innovative program under which the Corps would transfer appropriated funds to non-Federal sponsors that decide to

construct a project on their own. Non-Federal implementation of projects, where appropriate, would accelerate the construction of more infrastructure projects and create efficiencies in their delivery. Under this program, the Corps would issue a solicitation for proposals from non-Federal sponsors to construct their own projects using a combination of Federal and non-Federal funding. Other projects specifically funded in the Budget may also qualify for implementation under section 1043. The Budget also proposes to extend section 1043, which expired in 2019.

Prioritizes Core Functions

Improves the Transportation of Goods on the Nation’s Inland Waterways. The Budget proposes to reform the laws governing the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, including an annual per-vessel fee for commercial users; to help finance future capital investments on these waterways and a

portion of the cost of their operation and maintenance. The current diesel fuel tax is insufficient to support the users' share of these costs.

Divests the Washington Aqueduct. The Budget proposes to sell the Washington Aqueduct, the wholesale supply system for Washington D.C.; Arlington County, Virginia; the City of Falls Church, Virginia; and parts of Fairfax County, Virginia. The Corps owns and operates the Aqueduct, which is the only local water supply system in the Nation owned and operated by the Corps. Ownership of local water supply is best carried out by a State or local government, or by the private sector where there are appropriate market and regulatory incentives. Selling the Aqueduct to a public or private utility would contribute to American prosperity through a more efficient allocation of economic resources.

Accelerates Water Resources Infrastructure Delivery

The Budget again calls on the Congress to extend section 1043 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, as amended to enable non-Federal sponsors who believe they can construct projects more efficiently to do so. The Budget provides \$250 million for construction of projects under this authority and \$250 million for Innovative Funding Partnerships accelerating completion of projects.

Promotes Good Stewardship of Taxpayer Dollars

Increases Accountability. The Budget establishes clear priorities based on objective criteria for investment decisions. This approach ensures the best overall use of available funds and allows the American taxpayer to understand how Federal resources are allocated. For example, the Budget funds dam safety studies within the Investigations account, instead of the Operation and Maintenance account, where they appropriately belong. The Budget also makes clear to the American people when major Federal investments, in some cases started years ago, will be completed.

Increases Fiscal Discipline and Transparency. The Budget repropose revisions to the appropriations language for the Construction, Operation and Maintenance, and Mississippi River and Tributaries accounts, and new appropriations language for the Harbor Maintenance and Inland Waterways Trust Funds, to provide greater transparency in how these funds are spent. Establishing separate appropriations accounts for the navigation trust funds would improve accountability, ensure appropriations are used for the purpose and at the level which the Congress intended, and increase transparency for the public, including the users that pay fees to finance some of these costs.